

San José State University
Department of Philosophy
Philosophy 61
Moral Issues
Section 02
Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Michael Jordan
Office Location:	FOB 208
Email:	michael.jordan@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	MW 7-8:45am
Class Days/Time:	MW 9-10:15am
Classroom:	DMH 149B

Course Description

Moral philosophy covering major ethical theories and contemporary moral issues, such as abortion, euthanasia, animal rights, capital punishment, and sexuality.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals:

The goal of this course is for the student to study and learn ethical theory; the student will learn to apply theory to ethical issues covered in the course; to write clearly and analytically; to research and present findings orally to the class at large.

Course Student Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns
2. respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses
3. write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness
4. have knowledge of historical and contemporary ethical theory
5. learn to apply ethical theories to a moral issue covered in the course
6. hone writing and speaking skills; gain ease in speaking about and applying moral issues

Required Texts/Readings

Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues, Concise (8th ed.), Mackinnon and Fiala. Cengage Learning (ISBN - 9781305077508)

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload is found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Points:

Quizzes	= 60 points
Paper	= 80 points
Midterms	= 100 points
Final	= 50 points
<u>Participation</u>	<u>= 10 points</u>
Total	=300 points

Ethical Position Paper: One 4-5 page writing assignment worth 80 points is scheduled during the course of the semester. This writing assignment will require you to choose an ethics related case study, develop a position on the ethical dilemma presented in the case, and defend your position with ethical theory and principles. The due date is listed on the weekly schedule and the assignment details and case studies can be found on CANVAS in “Files.” Late assignments will NOT be accepted. The final draft must be done in the following format:

Times New Roman 12 pt. font
1” margins all around
Double spaced
Name and Section number in upper left hand corner.

Grading Rubric: In general, an **A** paper is defined as a paper that has (i) a thesis that is plausible, (ii) a good argument or set of arguments for the thesis, and (iii) a consideration of objections to the argument with responses to the objections. The highest grade that a paper can receive for failing to have (iii) is a **B**, the highest grade that a paper can receive for failing to have (ii) is **C**, and the highest grade that a paper can receive for failing to have (i) is a **D**. Success on a paper comes from clear, concise, and comprehensive argumentation in defense of a well thought out thesis.

Quizzes: There will be **six** quizzes, each worth 10 points each. On selected days there will be a quiz at the end of the class, which will be based on the specific material discussed in class that week. All quizzes will either be brief in class essays or multiple choice and will require that you participate in a group discussion with your peers. There is no make-up for a missed quiz.

Midterm/Final: There will be two midterms and a final examination. Exams will consist of short answer, multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, and essay questions. A comprehensive study guide will be handed out prior to each exam. Each exam is worth 50 points. There are no make-up examinations unless arranged prior to the exam.

Class Participation: I expect students to participate in class discussions. If you cannot discuss philosophy then you will have difficulty understanding it. Therefore, 10 points will go toward participation and will be based on in-class activities such as formal and informal debates, small group assignments, and in-class writings.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

There are a total of 300 points.

300-280 = A	269-260 = B+	239-230 = C+	209-199 = D
279-270 = A-	259-250 = B	229-220 = C	198-0 = F
	249-240 = B-	219-210 = C-	

Points:

Quizzes	= 20%
Paper	= 27%
Midterms	= 33%
Final	= 17%
<u>Participation</u>	= 3%

Total = 300 points

Late Work Policy: Since it is not fair to other students to turn in late work, I do not accept it. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date.

E-mailing Assignments: All assignments must be turned in in class. If this is not possible and you need to e-mail an assignment it must be e-mailed prior to the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Assignments sent after the class is over will be considered late. **IMPORTANT, if you choose to e-mail me an assignment you must include the course title and section in the subject line and include your full name in the e-mail.**

CANVAS: I use CANVAS in a limited capacity. I will use canvas to make announcements, update grades, and upload slides, study guides, and the paper assignment. All uploaded documents can be found in "Files."

"Students are strongly encouraged to take courses to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V from departments other than their major department. Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co--registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students." See [University Policy S14-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf>.

Note that "All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades." See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Because this is a philosophy course, classroom discussion plays an important part of it. Dialogue and discussion are central to philosophy, but they presuppose that YOU have studied (i.e., read, re-read, and taken notes on) the material that is being discussed. In addition, there will be small group discussions and in-class projects. For these reasons, I expect you always to come to class (with your textbook) and to come having read carefully the assignment for that day. Philosophy classes have the potential to be fun for you and I but it really depends on your participation.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader

to scan this code.)



SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Phil 61, Moral Issues, Fall 2018 Course Schedule (schedule is tentative and may change)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/22	<u>Course Introduction</u> Discussion: Course Introduction/Syllabus Review
2	8/27	<u>What is Ethics?</u> Read: <i>Chapter 1</i> and <i>How to write an Ethics Paper</i> pg. 336-347 Discussion: What Ethics is; basic moral orientations, types of ethical theories Case Study: <i>Captain of the Ship</i> , Writing Assessment
2	8/29	<u>What is Ethics?</u> Read: <i>Chapter 1</i> and <i>How to write an Ethics Paper</i> pg. 336-347 What Ethics is; basic moral orientations, types of ethical theories
3	9/3	<u>OFF</u>
3	9/5	<u>What is Ethics?</u> Read: <i>Chapter 1</i> and <i>How to write an Ethics Paper</i> pg. 336-347 What Ethics is; basic moral orientations, types of ethical theories
4	9/10	<u>Moral Decision Making</u> Read: Class Handout Discussion: Handout-In class activity: Moral decision making Quiz #1
4	9/12	<u>Ethical Egoism and Altruism</u> Read: <i>Chapter 4</i> and <i>Ring of the Gyges</i> ; http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/articles/gyges-a.pdf Discussion: Ethical Egoism and Ethical Altruism Case Study: Plato's <i>Ring of the Gyges</i>
5	9/17	<u>Virtue Ethics: Aristotle</u> Read: <i>Chapter 8</i> Discussion: Aristotle/Virtue Ethics/Character
5	9/19	<u>Virtue Ethics: Aristotle</u> Read: <i>Chapter 8</i> Discussion: Aristotle/Virtue Ethics/Character
6	9/24	<u>Consequentialism/Utilitarianism</u> Read: <i>Chapter 5</i> Discussion: Utilitarianism/Consequentialism, the Principle of Utility

6	9/26	<u>Consequentialism/Utilitarianism</u> Read: <i>Chapter 5</i> Discussion: Utilitarianism/Consequentialism, the Principle of Utility Quiz#2
7	10/1	<u>Consequentialism/Utilitarianism</u> Read: <i>Chapter 5</i> Discussion: Utilitarianism/Consequentialism, the Principle of Utility Midterm Review/Study Guide
7	10/3	MIDTERM 1
8	10/8	<u>Deontology: Kant</u> Read: <i>Chapter 6</i> Discussion: Case Study: Kevin Carter Case/Photojournalism
8	10/10	<u>Deontology: Kant</u> Read: <i>Chapter 6</i> Discussion: The Categorical Imperative/Professional Obligations
9	10/15	<u>Deontology: Kant</u> Read: <i>Chapter 6</i> Discussion: The Categorical Imperative/Professional Obligations Quiz #3
9	10/17	<u>Deontology: W.D. Ross</u> Read: http://www.iep.utm.edu/ross-wd/ Discussion: Prima Facie Moral Obligations
10	10/22	<u>Deontology: W.D. Ross</u> Read: http://www.iep.utm.edu/ross-wd/ Discussion: Prima Facie Moral Obligations
10	10/24	<u>Existential Ethics</u> Read: Handout (selections from <i>The Genealogy of Morals</i> , and <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>) Discussion: Nietzsche: Master/Slave Morality
11	10/29	<u>Existential Ethics</u> Read: Handout (selections from <i>The Genealogy of Morals</i> , and <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>) Discussion: Nietzsche: Master/Slave Morality
11	10/31	<u>Existential Ethics</u> Read: Sartre, <i>Existentialism is Humanism</i> https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm Discussion: Nietzsche and Sartre's: Existentialism is Humanism Quiz #4
12	11/5	<u>Existential Ethics</u> Read: Sartre, <i>Existentialism is Humanism</i> https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm Discussion: Sartre: Existentialism is Humanism Study Guide
12	11/7	Midterm 2

13	11/12	OFF
13	11/14	<u>Environmental Ethics</u> Read: <i>Chapter 16</i> Discussion: Environmental Ethical Theories
14	11/19	<u>Animal Rights</u> Read: <i>Chapter 17</i> Discussion: Animal Rights / Peter Singer Ethical Paper Due
14	11/21	OFF/Thanksgiving
15	11/26	<u>Bioethics</u> Read: <i>Chapter 18</i> Discussion: The Ashley Case Quiz #5
15	11/28	<u>Bioethics</u> Read: <i>Chapter 18</i> and http://depts.washington.edu/bioethx/tools/princpl.html Discussion: Principles of Bioethics
16	12/3	<u>Bioethics</u> Read: <i>Chapter 18</i> and http://depts.washington.edu/bioethx/tools/princpl.html Discussion: Principles of Bioethics
16	12/5	<u>In-Class Debates</u> TBD Quiz #6
17	12/10	Final Study Guide
17	12/12	Final Exam 7:15(8am)-9:30am